

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 PC-01

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O R 291232Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 957

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

EBCONSUL CALUCTTA 5532

AMCONSUL/MADRAS 1H

USCINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11773

CINCPEA FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, INS

SUBJ: SANJAY GANDHI INTERVIEW

REF: NW DELHI 11701

1. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TO THE PRESS ON AUGUST 28, SANJAY ATTEMPTED TO REVERSE GEARS ON HIS ANTI-COMMUNIST STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL. IN DOING SO, HE HAS FOCUSED THE ONUS OF HIS CHARGES ON THE CPM, IMPLEMENTING THE CPI. STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. "I DID NOT MEAN TO MAKE SUCH A SWEEPING STATEMENT ABOUT AN ENTIRE PARTY. OBVIOUSLY IN SOME PARTIES LIKE THE SWATANTRA, THE JANA UNGH AND THE BLD THERE
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ARE FAR MORE WEALTHY PEOPLE AND THERE IS ALSO MORE

CORRUPTION. I FELT ANGRY BECAUSE I HAVE HEARD THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO CALL THEMSELVES COMMUNIST MARXISTS AND POSE AS BEING SUPERIOR ARE IN FACT RICH AND ALSO FAR FROM HONEST.

"I AM NOT USED TO NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS AND DID NOT REALISE WHAT MEANING WOULD BE GIVEN TO MY WORDS. EVERY PARTY HAS GOOD AND BAD PEOPLE, EVEN THE CONGRESS. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE COMMUNISTS BUT I MUST ADMIT THAT THEIR WORKERS ARE DEDICATED TO THEIR CAUSE AND WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR IT. THEY MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A SITUATION BUT THE CPI HAS SUPPORTED AND WORKED WHOLE-HEARTEDLY FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICIES, SPECIALLY THOSE AFFECTING THE POOR PEOPLE. "ALTHOUGH THEY WERE MALIGNED AND ABUSED THEY FOUGHT AGAINST THE GRAND ALLIANCE, JANATA MORCHA, AND SUCH OTHER COMBINATIONS BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT THESE WERE HARMING THE COUNTRY. I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ABOUT OTHER MATTERS ALSO, ANYTHING I SAID WAS MY PERSONAL VIEW."

3. UMA VASUDEV, SURGE EDITOR, TOLD A CANADIAN DIPLOMAT TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO BLOCK FOR THE TIME BEING THE PUBLISHING OF HER SANJAY INTERVIEW. LATE AUGUST 28, THE GOI PHONED FOREIGN AND INDIAN NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS TO INFORM THAT THE INTERVIEW HAD BEEN EMBARGOED. PORTIONS OF THE INTERVIEW HOWEVER, APPEARED IN A NUMBER OF AUGUST 29 INDIAN DAILIES, INCLUDING BLITZ IN BOMBAY, THE MADRAS MAIL AND THE CALUCTTA HINDUSTAN STANDARD.

4. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT, UMA VASUDEV CLAIMED THAT MRS GANDHI DID NOT RPT NOT SEE THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW. SANJAY, SHE SAID, HAD DISCUSSED THE ARTICLE WITH HIS MOTHER WHO HAD SUGGESTED CHANGES. SANJAY HAD THEN MADE THE CHANGES.

5. WE ARE POUCHING TODAY (AUGUST 29) TO NEA/INS FULL COPY OF THE SANJAY INTERVIEW.
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